

November 25, 2000

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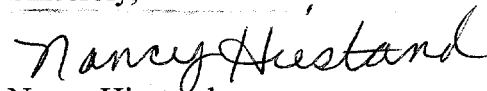
Jane **Henney**, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
Docket # OOP-1211/CP1
5630 Fisher's Ln., Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner **Henney**,

I am concerned about the risks of genetically engineered foods. Already 70 million acres of US farmland are planted with GE seeds, and most of the national food brands can't guarantee that their products do not contain GE foods. The problem is that once these seeds are released in nature, we can never take them back. I am concerned about loss of biodiversity as only a few varieties of crops are used extensively. Genetic **drift** becomes a problem as pollen of altered plants mingles with traditional varieties. An increase in allergies is among the potential health problems. GE crops require a greater reliance on chemicals. The world's seeds will be controlled through patents owned by a few corporations. These corporations are in a race for control of agricultural production, not a race to feed the world. The U.S. government has failed to protect consumers, and has allowed a few big companies to place our global food supply on a dangerously uncertain course.

I support a legal petition by the Center for Food Safety. I urge the FDA to require that (1) no new genetically-engineered foods or products with GE ingredients be released until the Food and Drug Administration requires long-term safety testing of all GE foods before they go to market; and (2) All GE foods presently on the market be labeled, giving consumers the right to know what's in the food they are eating.

Sincerely,


Nancy Hiestand
526 South Campus Way
Davis, CA 95616

Copy to Congressman Doug Ose

OOP-1211

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Food & Drug Administration
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